

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CORRECTION

IN RECOGNITION OF CARL SWOPE,  
2017 TIME DEALER OF THE YEAR

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who was recently awarded one of the highest honors in his industry. Mr. Carl Swope, owner of Swope Toyota located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in my Congressional District, was named the 2017 TIME Dealer of the Year. The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors.

After graduating from Indiana University, Mr. Swope began working at his father's car dealerships. In 1986, Mr. Swope purchased his first dealership, a single store with 50 employees. Today, Mr. Swope oversees six dealerships representing nine brands in Elizabethtown and Radcliff, Kentucky, and employing over 300 associates.

Mr. Swope is an active participant in the Elizabethtown community. He currently serves as a member of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, the Knox Regional Development Board, the Lincoln Heritage Council for the Boy Scouts of America, the Elizabethtown Tourism Commission, the Elizabethtown Airport Board, and the Hardin Memorial Health Foundation Board. He also established a local affiliate for Habitat for Humanity and remains an active part of the organization.

On behalf of all the constituents of Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District, I congratulate Mr. Carl Swope on being named the 2017 TIME Dealer of the Year. I wish him and the Swope family all the best.

BIRTHDAY PROCLAMATION FOR  
ANIKA AND PRIAM ZELA

**HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Anika and Priam Zela, twin sister and brother, will be honored by their parents, nona, family and friends on the occasion of their 1st Birthday on March 18th, 2017; and

Whereas, Anika and Priam Zela were born in Phoenix, Arizona on March 16th, 2016, at 12:45 p.m. and 12:36 p.m., respectively, blessing their parents and their family, and have been residents of Scottsdale, Arizona since then; and

Whereas, March has been a blessed month for Anika and Priam, as their parents first met on March 3rd, 2007, the wedding of their parents was held on March 20th, 2011 and they came to this life on March 16th, 2016; whereas March marks the beginning of Spring,

where the grips of winter are just beginning to lose their hold as a new season of life begins too; whereas March was the beginning of a New Year and is still celebrated as such in many cultures and religions; whereas March marks the Vernal Equinox where northern and southern hemispheres are equally illuminated and day and night are of equal duration all over the earth symbolizing a twin approach; whereas March marks the International Day of Happiness exactly to the day their parents wedded and Equinox happens, as well as marks the World Mathematics Day; whereas March's birthstones are aquamarine and bloodstone that both symbolize courage; whereas March is named after Mars, the god of war, fertility and agriculture who oversaw the new growth of Spring, and encouraged the continuation of life; whereas the personality of March (and Mars) is charging, unrelinquishing and brutally assertive as, at this point in the year, there is no stopping the burgeoning birth of new life; whereas March (and Mars) is a high-speed locomotive on a single-focused monorail with only one objective: Explosive Expression; whereas March meaning embodies the reigniting of the hearts and consciousness of humankind, a time when we feel the initial kicks of Spring from the deepest womb of the Mother Earth; and, like our ancestors, we are quickened, our soul-palettes are whetted for new conquest and bold assertion and we set a course for forward-momentum; and

Whereas 2016 (MMXVI) was a leap year starting on Friday of the Gregorian calendar, the 2016th year of the Common Era; and

Whereas 2016 was a very eventful year, designated as the International Year of Global Understanding, where ESA and Roscosmos launched the joint ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter on a mission to Mars; where Gotthard Base Tunnel, the world's longest and deepest railway tunnel, was opened; where NASA's Juno spacecraft entered orbit around Jupiter and NASA launched OSIRIS-REx, its first asteroid sample return mission; where the final video-cassette recorder was manufactured by the Japanese company Funai; where the Solar Impulse 2 became the first solar-powered aircraft to circumnavigate the Earth, and where Summer Olympics were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and

Whereas, March 16 is the 75th day of the year (76th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar and there are 290 days remaining until the end of the year; and

Whereas, March 16 is the birthday of James Madison, Jr., the Founding Father and fourth President of the United States and who is hailed as the Father of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as is the birthday of Georg Ohm, one the most famous physicists and mathematicians; and

Whereas, their parents, family and society expect them to live long and productive lives and be a force for good, justice and progress for those around them, the country and the world; and

Now, Therefore, it is hereby deemed a pleasure to extend this Certificate of Recogni-

tion to Anika & Priam Zela on the occasion of their 1st Birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for a long, happy and successful life, wishing them that, with courage, knowledge, love and a spirit of discovery, there would be no limit to the heights they can reach, keeping their eyes on the stars, and their feet on the ground.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, on March 15, 2017, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on roll call no. 159, 160, and 161. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

YEA on H.R. 132, the Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2017, YEA on H.R. 648, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskaadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir, and, NAY on the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

RECOGNIZING ENDOMETRIOSIS  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, March is Endometriosis Awareness Month, where we recognize the impact this disease has on the quality of life for women throughout our country. The lack of awareness about endometriosis creates an environment that delays treatment and grows the cost of care.

This condition, in which the tissue that forms the lining of the uterus is found in areas outside the endometrium, causes severe pain in the body. Endometriosis occurs in about one in ten women of reproductive age, and is most often diagnosed in women in their 30s or 40s. This disease can be treated with medication, surgery, or sometimes both.

Roughly five million women in the United States suffer with endometriosis, costing an estimated \$119 billion annually. It can take more than nine years, from the onset of symptoms and visits to specialists, for women to receive a diagnosis of endometriosis; and women with endometriosis are 1.35 times more likely to need surgery or stenting to open blocked arteries.

The general lack of awareness about this disease can contribute to the unnecessary suffering of patients and the rising public costs of this disorder. We must help to bring awareness of endometriosis in order to foster the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

health and well-being of women across America.

HONORING ROTARY DISTRICT 7150  
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rotary District 7150 of Central New York as it hosts Rotary International President-Elect Ian Riseley of Australia.

This weekend, Rotary International President-Elect Riseley will address incoming club presidents at the Multi-District President-Elect Training Seminar and People of Action Dinner in my district in Syracuse, New York. I am proud to see local members of Rotary District 7150 of Central New York honored during this, the centennial of the Rotary International Foundation.

Rotary International is home to more than 35,000 clubs worldwide, including 43 clubs in District 7150 of Central New York. The Rotary's mission of "service above self" is exemplified in our local Rotary Clubs' work assisting veterans in need, recognizing the hard work and success of high school students, restoring our prized parks and waterways, and partnering with local food pantries to reduce hunger throughout the 24th District.

With over 1,200 Rotary members locally, Central New York is a better place because of the work these individuals do for our community. I applaud the members of Rotary District 7150 of Central New York for their service, fellowship, and passion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL JOHNSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 155.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on March 15, 2017, I missed the voting session. If present, I would have voted as follows:

YES—H.R. 132—Arbuckle Project Maintenance Complex and District Office Conveyance Act of 2017

YES—H.R. 648—To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskaadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir

YES—Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Missouri Whitewater Championships celebrating their 50th year March 17 through 19, 2017. The races are held at the Millstream Gardens Conservation Area of the Saint Francis River near Fredericktown, Missouri.

The Championships continue a tradition begun in 1968, when the first Saint Francis River Whitewater Slalom Race was held. Since then, the event has expanded its scope and attracts beginners and seasoned competitors from other states and countries. Even Olympic-class paddlers have used this race as training preparation for future Olympic Games.

The event first begun by the Meramec River Canoe Club is now hosted by the Missouri Whitewater Association. It comes together as 100 volunteers set up the race course, provide safety, judge, time, and score the participants while hundreds of spectators cheer.

For providing sportsmen with the thrill of competition on the Saint Francis River for half a century and enhancing tourism for Madison and surrounding counties through its annual Whitewater Championships, I am happy to congratulate the Missouri Whitewater Association today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NILS  
MICHAEL DECKER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and career of Mr. Nils Michael "Mike" Decker of Fresno. Mike Decker passed away on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 in Fresno, California.

Mike was a wonderful, kind man and a dedicated educator. Mike was born in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. His career in education began at St Alphonso's School in Fresno, California followed by Orange Center School in Fresno.

Mike then served 25 years as Principal and Superintendent at Laton Unified School District in Fresno County. In addition, Mike also served on my State Assembly Staff as District Director.

In addition to his friends and family, Mike was adored by his students. Mike positively influenced the lives of thousands of children with this commitment to education and he helped many young people reach for the stars.

Nils Michael Decker is survived by his wife of 52 years, Diana Decker, his son, Timothy J. Decker, his son, Scott A. Decker and his wife, Maria and his daughter, Katherine Decker. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Michael Hill, Jadynd Garrett, Nicholas Decker and his great granddaughter, Neelie Grace Hill.

Mike's sister, Margo Bellman and his brother Gordon Decker both of Michigan also survive him.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and career of Nils Michael Decker, a hero to his family, a wonderful role model for educators and exemplary father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN  
DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 16, 2017*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note my introduction of the African Descent Affairs Act, as we continue to highlight the International Decade for People of African Descent.

We have seen a sharp increase in racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of discrimination across the world over the last year. Human rights violations emanating from racial prejudice and discrimination have negatively impacted people of African descent around the world, resulting in racial bias and disparities in education, employment, health, housing, justice, and other sectors. We must act now to reverse these disturbing trends. The International Decade for People of African Descent provides an opportunity to not only draw attention to these inequities, but to also join efforts with countries around the globe to develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African descent and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation.

To aid these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within our State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent; creating a "Fund" to support antidiscrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; and requiring Annual State Department Human Rights Reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. I believe that U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

The State Department has already launched many successful initiatives that have aided vulnerable populations, such as the Office of Global Women's Issues, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, the Special Representative to Muslim Communities, and the LGBT Global Equality Fund. Implementing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs will continue this tradition and facilitate the full and equal participation of people of African descent in society, promote knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contributions of people of African descent, and strengthen and implement legal frameworks that combat racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will embrace the challenge of combating prejudice and discrimination across the